



20th REGIONAL OBSERVER COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

Rt.Hon.Dr.Sir.Tomasi Puapua Convention Centre

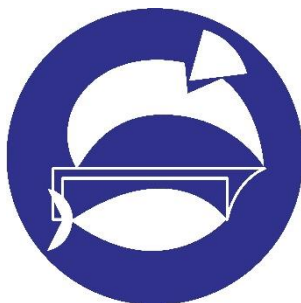
FUNAFUTI

Tuvalu

10 – 14 February 2020

THEME: “STRENGTHENING UNITY THROUGH QUALITY AND BEST PRACTICES”

RECORD OF MEETING



Monday, 10th February

Agenda Item 1: Registration of Participants

1. Observer Programme Representatives from Fiji, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Pacific Community (SPC) met at the Rt. Honourable Dr. Sir Tomasi Puapua Convention Centre in Tuvalu February 10 – 14, 2020. Also present were observers from the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).
2. The list of participants and observers appended as **Attachment A**.

Agenda Item 2: Opening of Meeting

3. Reverend Alamatiga Lusama of Tuvalu opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. The Director of Fisheries Mr Samasoni Finikaso welcomed participants to the 20th Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROCW) noting the distances travelled during a time when there is a global outbreak of the coronavirus. The Director thanked FFA Executive for their support to continue with the workshop, as it has been well planned and welcomed by the people of Tuvalu. The Director then invited Ms Moira Simmons-Avafoa acting CEO of the Ministry of Natural Resources to say a few words of welcome
5. Ms Simmons-Avafoa welcomed the participants to Tuvalu and ROCW20. Ms Simmons-Avafoa invited the Minister for Fisheries and Trade and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Minute Alapati Taupo, to formally open the ROCW20.
6. Mr Minute Alapati Taupo welcomed the workshop participants to Tuvalu and acknowledged the importance of the ROCW to the region. The Minister noted that Tuvalu has approximately 80 observers, though with no plan to expand these numbers at this time. The Minister on behalf of Tuvalu recognised the high standard of training observers are exposed to and this standard has been consistently delivered over time. The Minister also recognised the value of the long-standing United States Treaty (UST) agreement and welcomed opportunities for Tuvalu Observers to secure more placements on UST vessels. He encouraged meeting participants to work on the development of observer contracts and have these available for all observers heading to sea. The Minister noted those participants who could not attend this year's meeting due to the coronavirus, but again welcomed those in attendance and officially declared the workshop open.

Agenda Item 2.3 Appointment of Interim Chair

7. FFA Manager Observer Program, Mr Philip Lens, informed participants that Cook Islands was previously elected as Chair of ROCW20. However, the Coordinator could not attend. Samoa had subsequently been nominated to take on the role of Chair but due to recently imposed travel restrictions Samoa was unable to attend. Nauru nominated Tuvalu for Chair; this was seconded by Marshall Islands. Tuvalu accepted the nomination. The Chair, Mr Tupulaga Poulasi – Principle Fisheries Officer, Oceanic Division.

Agenda Item 2.4 Apologies

8. The meeting noted apologies from Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia and the NOAA office in American Samoa, due to travel restrictions.

Agenda Item 2.5 Procedures for recording proceedings and adoption of agenda

9. The meeting participants adopted the agenda noting a need to be flexible due to last minute changes in presentations. Refer to **Attachment B**
10. FFA nominated FFA Training Adviser Allison Delvendiep as the lead rapporteur, this was supported by participants.

Agenda 3 - Observer Programme Updates

11. The Chair invited Programme representatives to provide a brief summary of their country reports. SPC highlighted to participants the value of the National Observer Programme (NOP) report for training development purposes and encouraged all NOPs to submit their country reports in a timely manner.
12. Cook Islands noted the training of Observers, for work on-board potting vessels targeting lobster/crayfish and crab based out of Lima, Peru operating in the SPRFMO Management Area in the foundation seamount chain south east of French Polynesia SPC asked what forms Cook Island observers used for this work, they clarified that these are still under development. Cook Islands trawl fishery has two flagged trawl vessels, one based out of Cape Town and the other based out of Port Louis in Mauritius both operate in the SIOFA Management Area of the Southern Indian Ocean. New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industry provided training for observers on trawl vessels. Cook Islands thanked those NOPs for providing Observers for national trips, due to the lack of Cook Island certified Observers. It was also noted that Cook Islands flagged its first Purse Seine (PS) vessel in 2019 and is working with the Nauru NOP for 100% coverage.
13. Fiji reported on their national programme and highlighted that per trip contracts are given to all Observers. Fiji has requested training for MSC, cross endorsement and debriefer assessor certification of their observers. Fiji pointed out that Fiji Observers disembarking in foreign ports such as Mexico need pre-debriefing before back-to-back trips, the purpose being to improve data quality and remind Observers of their duties. Fiji also noted they needed more callipers.
14. Kiribati expressed concern with regard to placing observers on vessels that have visited ports in countries with known Coronavirus cases. Kiribati requests FFA to work with vessel operators on this issue, at this time Kiribati will not allow observers to board vessels that have been to high risk countries in the last 14 days.
15. FFA noted Kiribati concern, recognising this a concern across the region and it is not limited to UST vessels. FFA has encouraged vessel operators to pick up observers in Port of Apia in Samoa, to avoid observers waiting in Honolulu for the 14 days clearance requirement by American Samoa. FFA encourages all NOPs to speak with vessel operators to determine options for the embarkation and disembarkation of observers to be within the region.
16. SPC sought clarification from Kiribati highlighting 55 observers were trained last year, with 22 from Christmas Island. SPC received a request from Kiribati concerning Christmas Island participants for sea safety training. SPC highlighted that the sea safety training can be done in Tarawa at the Maritime Training Centre (MTC). Kiribati confirmed the sea safety training has commenced and those from Christmas Island are in attendance in Tarawa.
17. Palau informed participants that the NOP remains non-operational. Palau is having trouble reviving the observer programme due to a turnover of staff. Palau confirmed that while there were no physical observer trips being undertaken, electronic monitoring (EM) analysis was being done. SPC

informed Palau that regional observer training would be run later in 2020 in Yap; Palau is encouraged to enrol people on this training.

18. RMI provided a brief summary of their NOP and highlighted observer concerns in respect of a lack of water for showers and drinking and bed bugs is a constant issue. RMI requests regional agencies to address these issues with vessel operators. RMI also highlighted quarantine restriction imposed on vessels that have visited high-risk coronavirus ports in the last 30 days, observers will not be permitted on vessels declared of high risk.

19. Nauru noted travel insurance remains a concern, some observers are travelling with insurance and it does not fully cover all elements e.g. life insurance. Nauru acknowledge and thanked Cook Islands and the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) for providing opportunities to Nauru Observers and further thanks was given to WCPFC for the facilitation of cross endorsement training which was held in Nauru during 2019. Nauru also thanked PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and the National Fisheries College (NFC) for facilitating Debriefer training, Nauru now has a certified Debriefer, a new staff member Jonathon Scotty is temporarily acting as Nauru coordinator while Malgram Dawabobo is on study leave.

20. PNG highlighted handwritten workbooks are no longer in use, 100% of observers are now completing forms through electronic reporting (ER), EM is yet to commence. Most significant issues raised relate to alcohol abuse and these incidents are being addressed. PNG noted observer insurance remains a concern and asked FFA to look into an insurance for all programmes. FFA are also asked to arrange proper placements of all observers done outside of the FFA region, to ensure vessel obligation towards the observers are thoroughly explained to fishing Master/Captains including the observer obligation towards the vessel.

21. Solomon Islands reported their most significant issue is reduced capacity in the office to manage the NOP, currently only a small team of four people running the programmes operations. It was noted that Solomon Islands has received generous funding assistance through the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Project (PROP), which has supported the procurement of (a rented office space for the observer programme staff, observer uniforms, safety gear and tablets. A national cost recovery mechanism covers the operational costs of the programme. Solomon Islands informed all meeting participants that any Observer arriving in a port in Solomon Islands will be warmly welcomed and Solomon Islands happily provides access to Wi-Fi, telephone services and workbooks if necessary, these are given in good faith, free of charge. Solomon Islands was encouraged to see other programmes' observers visiting the office appreciating the support and noted all were well behaved. It was also noted the programme successfully passed the ROP audit by WCPFC on 24 June 2019.

22. Chair noted the good comment about care of other programmes observers and hoped this is happening around the region.

23. Tonga highlighted request for observer and MSC training

24. Tuvalu recognised insufficient observers with cross endorsement certification and thanked WCPFC for recent cross endorsement training in Nauru. Tuvalu raised the issue of incident reports were received very late [from FFA] and currently national observers are banned from being placed on vessels that have visited countries that have known cases of the coronavirus.

25. SPC sought to understand the implications of refusing to place an observer for a vessel. Tuvalu noted that they would not put an observer on a FSMA trip. POA was forced to find another observer from another PNA member.

26. Vanuatu highlighted that the national cost recovery will be trialled in March 2020. FFA encouraged NOPs to see FFA's assistance to help develop national observer recovery mechanisms. Vanuatu raised the concern of a lack of certified Debriefers and also noted that misconduct is still an issue, however disciplinary action is taken. Vanuatu thanked Cook Islands for engaging Vanuatu Observer in 2019 under the reciprocal arrangement.

27. FFA delivered Samoa country report noting their apologies for not attending, due to coronavirus travel restrictions. Samoa highlighted Ms Stella Tuuau new coordinator while Lui Bell will continue working with the Samoa Programme.

28. FFA also delivered the country report on behalf of FSM. They noted that observers had missed flights resulting in them missing their assigned trips and other observers needed to be found urgently, disciplinary action was taken.

AGENDA 4 – PNAOC meeting update:

29. Solomon Islands Observer Coordinator Mr Harold Vilia represented the PNAOC and presented the paper on the PNAOC meeting outcome. Participants were informed there were 5 key recommendations from the meeting highlighting minimum standards of accommodation on board PS vessels for Observers, focused Debrief training, ER training, development of online training relating to placements and a recommendation to increase the pay for ER trips by an extra \$5 per sea day.

30. The PNAOC also announced the winner of the Golden Calliper award being:

- i. First Prize – PG – Garry Elias
- ii. Second prize – SB – Steve Wareo
- iii. Third prize – Tuvalu – Tiito Asaia

31. SPC queried the justification for the additional \$5 per sea day increase. PNAO informed the meeting that the increase is seen as a potential mechanism to encourage Members to move to ER, this justification was used noting that there is a drive to move to ER sooner rather than later.

32. SPC delivered a report on their work in support of NOPs noting that Mr. Simon Nicol is now leading the Fisheries Eco-System Monitoring and Assessment (FEMA). SPC highlighted that receiving biological samples remains a significant issue for SPC, noting that these samples are the foundation for their science and stock assessment work.

33. FFA reported on the FFA Observer Programme reminding participants that FFA's focus are those vessels under the UST. WCPFC audited FFA in 2019 and the FFA Observer Programme was certified as a WCPFC ROP provider. FFA recognised the increase in IATTC trips and informed participants that these trips prefer observers who are cross-endorsed and MSC certified. If WCPFC is planning to do cross-endorsement training, we encourage those countries without cross-endorsed observers to attend this training. This will create opportunity for fair distribution of UST trips among NOPs.

34. FFA asked NOPs to recognise the reduction in UST licensed vessels from 33 down to 25 for the 2020 licensing period. This reduction has seen a reduced demand for observers on UST vessels and it is not an easy task to distribute trips across 14 NOPs evenly, especially when considering the various endorsements UST vessels request.

35. SPC sought clarification on the use of E-Debriefing and the current process for sharing and storing data with iFIMs and FFA Members? FFA confirmed E-Debriefing is under development. In relation to sharing data with Members via the iFIMs platform, FFA is subject to the ISMS and the NTSA

data sharing policy. FFA does not release any data unless given this permission by the Member States. This concern was raised by PNA Members, hence the US Government have been asked to write to the FFA Director General (DG) to request specific key data relating to the matter in question, they will not be given access to full workbooks. Prior to this letter to the DG, the US must seek permission first from the Parties of which the incident occurred.

36. Nauru stressed the importance of proper placement practices noting that any issues identified must be rectified immediately or if placement procedures are not fully followed then and where remotely done, reported back to Nauru, the placement should not be paid. FFA supported comments from Nauru and urged all NOPs to ensure placement checklists are carried out effectively and all documentation returned to the relevant observer programme.

37. Fiji raised the point of bed bugs is not on the placement form, recommend this be added to the placement checklist. WCPFC noted that issues like bed bugs may need to be addressed on other forms such as the GEN-3, where they may address quickly before another Observer is placed on the same vessel. RMI encouraged Observers doing back-to-back trips in Majuro to come into the office for pre-debriefing, because that will be an opportunity to address such issues while the vessel is in port and before a new Observer embarks.

38. Nauru informed the meeting they have no desire to continue with the US Treaty and don't believe FFA is performing their job in regard to the observer payments. Nauru informed FFA, in order to keep the UST alive then FFA needs to work harder. Nauru noted they had suspended all UST trips for their observers, because FFA is not performing. Nauru advised FFA that they are strong on their stance in this regard and will take this to the next UST meeting if necessary. FFA thanked Nauru for these comments and kindly asked their issues to be clarified, in writing to the FFA Executive. FFA wishes to address weaknesses and formal written advice would assist in understanding where improvement is required.

39. FFA again noted the decline in UST trips and also reminded meeting participants that timely communication is necessary to respond to offers of placements. Kiribati was asked to note a lack of communication from their observer office and requested Kiribati to provide formal notification of who is the current Observer Coordinator.

40. FFA highlighted that requesting NOPs to undertake observer placements on UST vessels is not the only service provided by the FFA Observer Programme. The FFA UST programme also provides funds for workshops, trainings for observers and debriefers, training for NOPs personnel as well as providing national strengthening and capacity building support to NOPs on request. The participants are asked to note and acknowledge FFA's contribution to NOPs is not solely on UST placements.

41. PNG raised, for clarification, how to utilise funds from the Observer levy. FFA confirmed the Observer levy is charged under the vessel register, paid for by vessel operators. These funds covered the SPC observer programme staff costs, regional training costs, the ROCW and assorted PIRFO related workshops throughout the year.

42. Nauru sought to clarify that Nauru had placed a ban on UST trips after 2016. It is noted there were one or two trips in 2018 and 2019 however these were formal requests by FFA for Elton Clodumar as a PIRFO Trainer to undertake a trip as a requirement for a trainer to refresh his understanding on the changing fishing technology on fishing vessels. Nauru stated that, their NOP is fully self funded and will not tap into the UST funding.

43. RMI noted their port was one of the busiest in the region and would like FFA to consider RMI for more trips to align with the number vessels that come into port. FFA notes the request for more

trips but asks participants to recognise that there are only 25 UST vessels and over 800 observers across 14 members. Equal distribution of trips is difficult as the UST trips require MSC and cross endorsement certification, this is coupled with flight issues and the need for reliable and efficient communication from the Coordinators. Tuvalu also informed FFA they seek additional UST trips. SPC echoed FFA's concerns regarding declining vessel numbers and trip availability but again highlighted the value of the UST agreement and the activities funded, noting PNAO do not provide financial support to their training activities and other technical support to NOPs.

44. ROCW20 agreed to:

1. recommend the Data Collection Committee to amend the Placement form or the GEN-3 to list hygiene issues, in particular the presence of bed bugs;
2. support the recommendation from the POAM7 meeting, to be presented at MCSWG23, in regards to a new standard setting out minimum requirements for onboard accommodation.
3. support the recommendation from the POAM7 meeting, to be presented at MCSWG23, in regards to a pay increase of \$5 USD per day, for ER trips, to a maximum rate of \$75 USD per observer sea day

Agenda 5 – Recommendations from ROCW19.

45. SPC presented a status update on the recommendation from ROCW19 noting these were subsequently forwarded to the Monitoring Control and Surveillance Working Group (MCSWG) for further application and support and then to FFC. SPC drew main key points and acknowledged these recommendations would be addressed in more detail throughout the week.

46. Nauru acknowledged the significant number of outcomes and recommended the Meeting prioritise the recommendations to ensure they are well developed prior to forwarding to MCSWG and MOC. Nauru supports the recommended pay increase but also appreciates there are members that will be against the increase but that is no reason to stop the pressure on this request. Nauru supported the question raised by PNAO of formally comparing other RFMO rates to justify our argument to increase our rates. A review is a way forward and Nauru supported providing this information to MCSWG. SPC noted prioritising recommendations, however it is the role of participants in this meeting to identify and prioritise these recommendations.

47. ROCW20 agreed to:

4. identify and prioritise ROCW meeting recommendations for consideration by MCSWG;
5. task FFA to undertake a formal review of observer pay-rates in other RFMOs, for submission to MCSWG23

AGENDA 6 – MCSWG22 Outcomes

48. FFA introduced the MCSWG22 outcomes which was held in March 2019 at FFA in Honiara. FFA noted Nauru's comment on the need to prioritise the recommendations that go to MCSWG to ensure they are appropriately addressed. FFA highlighted that most of the recommendations provided to MCSWG22 were simply noted or resulted in action that is reliant on Members to request assistance.

Some of these outcomes relied on Members to advise on a suitable time to discuss the issue of insurance options. FFA remains on standby to respond to these Member requests.

49. FFA also highlighted the concern that flag states are not receiving timely information relating to GEN-3 issues. A proposed notification process promotes the process of NOPs immediately advising a flag-state when infringements are identified on the GEN-3. The PNAO highlighted that sending information directly to the flag-state without permission of Members is of concern. FFA thanked PNAO for this comment and acknowledged the process can be amended to reflect this. WCPFC noted that informing the Commission before the flag-state is a vital step in ensuring all parties involved are advised of any infringements reported on GEN-3s. WCPFC also highlighted that a contact list of key fisheries personnel has been developed and is available on the WCPFC website, accessed with user passwords that are created at the national level.

50. PNAO raised the lack of any mechanism for quick collaboration among NOPs in relation to infringements. At this time, the Coordinators must wait for information to be sent to SPC and then compiled by WCPFC. FFA recognised this is an issue and communication with each other when it comes to GEN-3 issues, FFA would welcome PNA developing a scheme to facilitate such communication and would also encourage the inclusion of non-PNA members.

51. ROCW20 agreed to:

6. task FFA to resubmit the FFC106 decision on observer insurance cover for MCSWG23 to encourage members to advise the FFA Secretariat of suitable dates for national consultation to address their outstanding observer insurance issues;
7. task FFA to seek MCSWG23 support to conduct a study on the different observer rates from other RFMOs and provide a report for FFC consideration on appropriate observer pay rates..

AGENDA 7 – Recommendations CMC.

52. SPC presented the status of the recommendations from CMC5 held at the end of ROCW19 in PNG. The recommendations included the development of a charter, i.e. the Terms of Reference of roles and responsibilities for the Committee. This was developed and finalised in 2019 and approved by the CMC. The CMC addressed the need for clarity of how PIRFO trainers are trained and the qualification held; the need for further development of the PIRFO website to improve use; and the logo trademark.

53. SPC presented the CMC charter to participants for consideration. No questions were raised by participants regarding the CMC charter. The Charter is recognised as being approved by ROCW20.

54. ROCW20 agreed to:

8. note the recommendations from CMC5;
9. approve the CMC Charter as presented to participants at ROCW20.

Agenda 8 – DCC review of LL EM data fields

55. SPC present on the recent DCC meeting in Nadi. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what data fields may be captured by EM and other new data that could be collected through EM on

longliners. The meeting compiled a set of EM longline data standards, a set of recommendations for further EM technical development, EM quality assurance and draft TORs for a WCPFC-directed, SPC study on EM coverage. Recommendations from the meeting will go through to the MCSWG23 (March 2020).

56. Nauru acknowledged the effort done by the DCC and questioned if there was any collaboration with Kerry Smith. Nauru also wished to stress that EM is not to take over the work done by observers. SPC acknowledged what has been expressed and the purpose of the meeting was to ensure Pacific interests are involved in the development of the standards.

57. ROCW agreed to:

10. note the outcomes of the DCC Longline EM Data Fields meeting in Nadi.

Agenda 9 – WCPFC Outcomes

58. WCPFC presented the most recent WCPFC annual meeting and the status of recommendations. WCPFC expressed the importance of Observer data, noting that the Technical Compliance Committee (TCC) considers a great deal of data received by Observers and the data is used to determine if CMMs should be developed. The presentation highlighted eight new CMMs developed in 2019.

59. During the presentation, WCPFC acknowledged the numerous requests for cross-endorsement training but asked participants to acknowledge that training is limited owing to the availability of the IATTC trainer. The WCPFC budget for this training is no longer available due to FFA and PNA recommending that vessel operators that need this service fund the training. The American Tuna-boat Association provide only limited funding for the WCPFC and the IATTC trainer to travel to countries to deliver in country.

60. Coordinators are asked to look at the WCPFC list of NOP coordinator contacts and update this. RMI noted the number of cross-endorsed observers within their national programme had changed. WCPFC thanked RMI for this update and encouraged all Coordinators to take time during this week to advise of any changes in relation to numbers of cross-endorsement-trained observers.

61. Nauru commented that NOPs should not be sourcing their own funds for cross-endorsement training, there are many competing priorities in national agencies and any funds for such trainings should be redirected to other priorities. WCPFC confirmed that there are no training funds other than travel support for trainers to do the training in-country.

62. SPC queried the minimum criteria that observers must meet to attend cross-endorsement training. WCPFC confirmed the minimum requirement is at least three PS trips, preferably more however, this is not strongly enforced, two PS trips will be considered.

63. PNAO raised a question regarding the new CMMs, seeking to understand how significant the changes in data collection are. WCPFC stated there is little change in regards to data collection, instructions have been updated but not so much the data fields. One data field that may change in the future is the length of branch-line that remains after a shark has been cut off, this is due to shark mortality where branch-lines are left attached to the shark, which may obstruct swimming or feeding.

64. ROCW20 agreed to:

11. all Observer Coordinators should review and update NOP ROP contact details.

Tuesday, 11th February

Agenda 10 National Cost Recovery

65. FFA presented the paper on national cost recovery for NOPs. The method of recovery of costs from vessel operators will allow NOPs to recover costs to subsidise or fully support the expenses paid to manage an observer programme.

66. Meeting participants were asked to task the FFA secretariat to conduct a 2nd Observer Cost Recovery workshop. There was a recommendation for this work at ROCW19, however FFA advised the participants that; due to the busy work schedules of FFA staff involved in the facilitation of such a workshop, it was deferred.

67. Solomon Islands highlighted they have been doing partial recovery since 2017, Solomon Islands invoices the companies for all Observer payments. Solomon Islands supports the recommendation to have a workshop on cost recovery and discuss ideas on running a full cost recovery.

68. Tuvalu noted they recover cost for the purpose of travel and accommodation of observers. This is secured through a levy on access fees and it applies to all vessels seeking licenses in Tuvalu, to date there has been no clear understanding of how much it costs to fully run the Tuvalu NOP.

69. The Cook Islands has a full cost recovery programme in place, in the beginning all funds were sent back to the main treasury and the Observer Programme was not benefiting. The programme account was later moved to American Samoa (Pago Pago) and this allowed the Cook Island Field Office to access the funds received.

70. SPC noted that protecting the funds received from vessels was a concern, NOPs are encouraged to develop an annual budget and work programme and then work to protect funds received. NOPs are to note that these funds should be funding recurrent operational items such as safety gear, workbooks and callipers.

71. Fiji impose observer levies for licenses. However if an observer disembarks in a foreign port and the observer returns to Fiji, it is at the cost of the vessel operator.

72. RMI applies full cost recovery. Vessels are invoiced for the observer daily rate and a daily rate while the vessel is in port, there is an observer fee attached to the licensing.

73. ROCW20 agreed to:

12. task FFA to recommend to MCSWG a 2nd National Observer Cost Recovery workshop to help guide members to develop national observer cost recovery;
13. task FFA to recommend to MCSWG to urge members to seek technical support from the Secretariat to develop national cost recovery systems.

Agenda 11 MoA between FFA and Members, for Observer Services

74. FFA presented the paper on the MoA between FFA and Members for sourcing observers to be placed on UST vessels. Initiated in 2011, the MoA was developed to assist Members to achieve 100% observer coverage on purse seine, the MoAs ceased in 2013. Participants were asked to note that the MoA is no longer in place and invoices issued to FFA for services supplied to the UST will be reviewed

by FFA executives. This will also require FFA's legal advice on whether FFA can make any payments without a valid agreement in place.

75. Participants were invited to support the recommendation to task the FFA Secretariat to review the agreement and provide feedback to Members.

76. It was noted that Solomon Islands do not charge any Members or the FFA in the event an observer comes through Honiara. Any observers coming to Honiara or Noro ports are gladly supplied with workbooks, transport, phone and Wi-Fi assistance. Solomon Islands strongly supports solidarity in the region and we should care for each other. While they have been asked to invoice others for cost, Solomon Islands will not charge other NOPs, or FFA, in an effort to promote this regional cooperation.

77. PNG echoed Solomon Islands efforts, noting they supply assistance and do not charge other programmes. In regards to the FFA observer levy PNG would like to see a better use of the funds raised and not for training or other programmes that FFA believe they need.

78. SPC noted that the MoA was initially developed to assist Members to set up their own NOPs however this was not sustainable. With the reduction of UST vessels this is now more difficult. Participants are asked to note that funds from the observer levy is not a significant amount of money and there are a clear set of service provisions attached to these funds.

79. Nauru commented on the agenda item's recommendation seeking clarification on who the Members are and what feedback was expected. Nauru further recognised Solomon Islands free services to other programmes; it is appreciated however NOPs should consider full cost recovery for such assistance.

80. Nauru again acknowledged the issue of payments from FFA and recommended to change banks, citing such issues do not occur when dealing with the POA. It was also suggested that FFA's financial processes be audited due to the failure to perform its function. Nauru notes that there are a number of staff at FFA and it is suggested that some FFA staff be removed to create a surplus of funds and pay the invoices that have been issued to FFA for providing services to the UST.

81. FFA thanked Nauru for the comments but noted the budget for the observer programme is not large and managing observer placement programme for the UST is not the only activity undertaken. FFA does recognise the financial process is very different to the POA and FFA being a larger administration there are a number of procedures to follow within FFA's financial management processes.

82. WCPFC questioned the banking process. FFA confirmed payments are done online however there are issues with the banks being slow or finance staff not being available. WCPFC recommended that an account be opened in Australia to speed up the transfer process. This suggestion was noted by the Secretariat.

83. Nauru agreed with comments from the WCPFC, noting if the banking system is a problem then the FFA Secretariat needs to look at this and find a solution. Nauru highlighted they hold a bank account with POA and this has been effective. Through POA, Nauru can get immediate access funds for quick travel. FFA are again urged to look at their financial systems to allow quick payments to facilitate access to funds.

84. The Chair thanked participants for their discussions but asked to keep participant to keep on topic.

85. SPC noted that payments are being made to a number of PIRFO workshop participants for DSA, college training costs and accommodation and have found the process has been very good and improved over the years. Participants are asked to communicate and continue to communicate with FFA.

86. Nauru questioned why task the FFA to review the MOA and suggested using a regulatory body such as the MCSWG to undertake this work and attach a time frame. FFA thanked Nauru for their comments and suggested that the review be undertaken and feedback of the MOA provided by the MCSWG in March. Nauru and other participants agreed to this date.

87. ROCW20 agreed to:

14. task the FFA to review developing agreements between FFA and Member countries on observers services and provide advice and recommendations to MCSWG23.
15. task the FFA to continue looking at ways to improve the observer payment system by reopening bank accounts in member countries and reintroduce the Payment Advise (PA) system for easy access to funds by observers.

Agenda Item 12 Safety Equipment Update

88. FFA asked all NOPs to update on the safety equipment that was purchased by FFA and shipped by MRAG.

89. MRAG presented on the procurement of safety equipment and delivery to NOPs. The supply included Personal Life Beacons (PLB), participants were asked to note that the PLBs must be registered, Garmin inReach GPS and two-way communication device that can also send SOS messages, and life jackets.

90. MRAG encouraged NOPs to mark their safety gear with ownership details and all gear must be checked before deployment to ensure functionality. Please note the CO₂ canisters can be carried on planes on in checked baggage, but notify ground staff prior to check-in.

91. FFA thanked MRAG for the presentation and encouraged all NOPs to register their equipment.

92. FFA informed NOPs that MRAG and FFA will be in touch to facilitate a safety equipment registration and handling process once the date is confirmed.

93. ROCW20 agreed to:

16. task FFA to facilitate training on how to register and use the safety equipment issued to NOPs.

Agenda Item 13 Travel and Health Insurance

94. FFA presented the item on travel and health insurance noting that many countries require evidence of some form of health insurance before they will permit entry. NOPs are asked to investigate insurance for their observers and ensure adequate coverage is provided.

95. Nauru recommend to pressure MCSWG to look into the issue and develop a way forward to address this, noting that a significant amount of money has been spent to go to Nadi to draft some resolutions but we are yet to get an outcome.

96. Fiji recommended callipers and safety gear be permanently located on UST vessels, noting the small number of vessels and the difficulty in carrying items when travelling. It was recommended that a MOA be made between the FFA and US making vessel operators responsible for their safekeeping. FFA noted this request and recognised there is potential to raise this at the next UST meeting. Nauru noted that they have such an MOU with vessels and they hold travel insurance, which also covers the loss of baggage and gear. Nauru also pointed out that this is a national issue and should be dealt with internally.

97. WCPFC noted surprise that UST no longer provided insurance cover through their standard vessel crew list. POA highlighted that the PNAO provide travel insurance from door to door. FFA clarified that the UST vessel do provide insurance for observers once on board

98. ROCW20 agreed to task:

- 17. FFA to advise MCSWG23 to urge members to acquire appropriate travel insurance;
- 18. FFA to advise MCSWG23 on the obligations of NOPs regarding health requirements in relation to observer travel, health insurance certificates and vaccinations requirements.

Agenda Item 14 Observer Trip Information on Social Media

99. FFA presented the item on posting information on social media. NOPs were reminded that fishing information is confidential and posting details or multimedia material must be discouraged. FFA highlighted that the Code of Conduct includes confidentiality clauses that observers must abide by.

100. NOPs were asked to provide awareness sessions to their observer on the use of social media in the workplace.

101. WCPFC agreed that there is significant information on social media which should not be posted. It is recommended that a data and photo confidentiality understanding be on the placement form. The form can highlight that the observer was informed of the confidentiality clause and cannot plead ignorance. WCPFC also noted that any data from NOPs or the ROP are confidential and should not be posted on social media.

102. ROCW20 agreed to task:

- 19. FFA to urge MCSWG23 to conduct awareness for all their observers about the risks and implications of posting and uploading observer information on social media.

Agenda Item 15 PIRFO Logo Update

103. FFA presented an update on the trademark registration of the PIRFO black and white logo and the acronym PIRFO in the countries of China, Taiwan and the Philippines. FFA highlighted that the registration of the logo relates only to the trademark classes with respect of training and deep sea fishing activities. The meeting was also informed the logo will be managed by the CMC but the CMC can only recommend actions to the FFC in respect of trademark misuse in these three countries.

104. The meeting was asked adopt the new logo and to propose a new colour selection for the colour version of the logo. FFA noted the majority selected the design, dark blue observer, light blue fish and

gold callipers. FFA noted the other suggestions and informed participants they will be forwarded to SPC's design team to develop samples for further consideration and approval.

105. The meeting raised the question of cost and purpose. The FFA acknowledged that the cost was approximately \$35,000 USD to register the logo in three countries, including Solomon Islands and the UK as being primary registration location. FFA recognised this is not a cheap exercise but the registration is valid for 10 years and it protects the logo from misuse by foreign observers pretending to be PIRFO Observers and it will also assist in providing credibility to the programme in a court environment.

106. The meeting supported the ongoing work with the registration and agreed to consider a colour logo when samples become available.

107. ROCW20 supported:

- 20. the work done to date to register the PIRFO trademark;
- 21. the design of a standard PIRFO logo, for Observer Coordinators to review and approve for future use.

Agenda Item 16 Regional ID Cards Update

108. SPC presented the agenda item on the development of regional ID cards. It was noted that the purpose of the ID cards is to provide PIRFO Observers with identification when boarding a vessel. SPC requested participants to consider various card designs noting details. NOPs are asked to coordinate information on observers to populate the fields on the cards.

109. Nauru recommended the ID card also be made digital and the QR Code point to the electronic version of the card. SPC agreed this could be done.

110. SPC questioned the participants on the need for certificates to be listed, noting that there are many qualifications and not a lot of space.

111. WCPFC noted there is a ROP for the layout of ID cards and recommended a signature and validity dates detailing 'From' and 'To'. SPC noted this recommendation for inclusion.

112. Solomon Islands recommend using the PIRFO logo as a background. SPC thanked Solomon Islands for the comment but raised the point that the logo has a lot of white space and may be lost behind the photo.

113. Cook Islands asked whether there would be a document number so SPC/FFA can track a record of ID Cards issued, though that could also be tracked through observer PIRFO ID code.

114. Nauru recognised how often cards and wallets are lost and questioned replacement costs. SPC and FFA both noted that the machine to print and supply of ink should last a few years and approximately 3000 cards have been supplied. Cost to buy new cards should be minimal and possibly supported through the SPC Observer Programme office expenses.

115. ROCW20 agreed to:

- 22. task the SPC Secretariat to provide the CMC with an ID card design, based on WCPFC requirements.

Agenda Item 17 PIRFO Website Update

116. SPC presented on the agenda item relating to the PIRFO website redevelopment. Participants were presented with the website in the current testing phase. SPC noted that there must be a clear understanding that there is restricted access to certain parts of the site. SPC is also mindful of the posting in social forums and use of chat features, these areas are moderated by SPC and can be shut down if postings become inappropriate.

117. SPC confirmed that major changes to the site must be done before the site is formally completed and handed over however general content can easily be changed and will be managed by SPC going forward.

118. ROCW20 agreed to:

23. support the work to redesign of the PIRFO website.

Agenda Item 18 PIRFO Trainers Fee

119. FFA presented the paper on increasing the PIRFO Observers Trainers Fee. FFA highlighted that pay rates for training contractors can be from \$100 USD up to \$300 USD noting that PIRFO training consultants are not all paid so well. FFA seeks to increase the rate for PIRFO certified Training consultants and asks participants to consider the recommendation to have MCSWG review the current trainer's fee.

120. Solomon Islands supports the recommendation to request MCSWG to review the trainer's fee. It is noted that PIRFO Trainers hold a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment from USP, work significant hours and we would like to see a new and improved pay rate be put forward. They also noted the number of skills that trainers must hold in order to teach.

121. PNG supports the recommendation to push it through to MCSWG for consideration.

122. PNA appreciates this dialogue and recognises the value of trainers. PNA noted that the NOPs are being asked to fund their own training. We need to consider how to cut down cost on training at the national level. PNA recommends all NOPs should have their own trainers.

123. SPC confirmed most of the larger programmes do have their own trainers and raised a point of caution regarding who will benefit from these rates. Participants are asked to consider the implications of engaging consultants which will drive up the cost and there will be significant disparity between the fees charged by PIRFO Training consultants and those employed by national programmes.

124. FFA detailed the current and proposed rates highlighting that if supported this will be noted on the record and go to MCSWG for further consideration.

125. Tokelau sought clarification if these new rates would apply to NOPs seeking to deliver training in-country. FFA clarified that these rates will only apply to FFA funded regional training delivered by PIRFO Training Consultants. If national programmes seek to engage a PIRFO Training Consultant then NOPs must negotiate their own rate with individual consultants.

126. Fiji further sought to clarify the rate increase is for freelance contract trainers not for those on payroll. FFA confirmed that the increase is for freelance trainers but if civil servants wish to benefit

from the pay rate, employees must be released from their government positions and secure a contract with either FFA or SPC.

127. ROCW20 agreed to:

24. task the FFA to recommend MCSWG23 their review of the FFA's contract trainers' daily rates and provide a recommendation to FFC for consideration.

Agenda Item 19 FFA Preferred Supplier Contract

128. FFA presented the item on preferred supplier contracts. Reflecting on the previous agenda item on PIRFO pay rates, PIRFO Training Consultants must be issued with a FFA preferred supplier agreement. The process of procurement for preferred suppliers is through a public tender and deliberation by an FFA tender committee, selected suppliers will be given a supplier agreement for a period of 2 years with a set fee per day.

129. Participants acknowledged the recommendations and agreed to note the FFA and SPC consultancy contract policies, agree to communicate with FFA and SPC regarding any contract prior to engagement and the request for PIRFO trainers to understand terms and conditions prior to accepting the offer to deliver training.

130. ROCW20 agreed to:

25. note the FFA and SPC consultancy contract policies and administrative procedures and ensure PIRFO trainers are fully aware of these requirements;
26. task FFA to ensure PIRFO Trainers effectively communicate with SPC and FFA regarding national consultancy contracts prior to any engagement in training delivery;
27. task FFA to advise PIRFO Trainers understand terms and conditions of contracts with member countries prior to accepting the offer to deliver national trainings.

Agenda Item 20 PIRFO Accreditation

131. FFA delivered an update session on the accreditation of the PIRFO courses. The meeting was informed that applications for accreditation have been submitted to SPC's Education Quality Assessment Programme (EQAP). To date EQAP the Observer course, Debriefing course and Debriefing Mentor and Assessor course have been submitted for qualification.

132. SPC raised a concern that if an accredited course is delivered outside of a college and does not receive an EQAP quality seal of education, will the trained observer not be recognised by PIRFO. FFA clarified that this is not the case. In the event any PIRFO training is conducted and the training continues to follow the minimum PIRFO training policy for delivery and the observer graduates with a CMC approved certificate then NOPs are strongly encouraged to recognise their training as being of the same standard. The difference will be on the value of the CMC certificate given to the observer when compared to an education institution certificate. An education institute certificate will carry more weight when apply for further advanced education.

133. POA asked for clarification in regard to the comment that if PIRFO training is delivered independently then EQAP will not provide their education seal on the certificate. FFA confirmed that under the EQAP guidelines quality education must be provided by an accredited institution, an

accredited institution is considered to be an organisation that has features of a training provider, relating to administration, validation, moderation and resources.

134. The Meeting noted the work being done in the accreditation of PIRFO qualification and supported its continuation.

135. ROCW20 agreed to:

28. support the ongoing work relating to the accreditation of the PIRFO suite of courses;

Agenda Item 21 PIRFO Framework

136. FFA presented updates to the PIRFO Framework and requested the meeting to consider and approve the removal of the Trainer and Assessor (TAE) qualification and the Front Line Management (FLM) qualification from the Framework noting that the TAE course has not been delivered by PIRFO trainers, nor any certificate issued by the CMC for such a course. Furthermore, education institutions would not recognise the PIRFO TAE qualification in the event PIRFO courses are delivered in maritime colleges. Participants were informed while the FLM course has been delivered through PIRFO previously; it is a duplication of existing FLM courses in the region.

137. WCPFC noted the significant amount of detail in the presentation and recommended the meeting be given more time to review the presentation to make judgement on the way forward.

138. Nauru agreed with needing more time and requested a paper on the pros and cons of changing the Framework to reflect the request.

139. The Meeting agreed to review the paper from FFA and provide a recommendation via email at a later date.

140. ROCW20 agreed to:

29. review the information paper supplied in respect of removing the TAE and FLM from the Framework and provide feedback to the FFA Training Adviser.

Agenda Item 22 PIRFO Debriefing Policy

141. SPC presented an overview of the development and ongoing work with respect to the PIRFO Debriefing Policy. SPC highlighted key aspects of the policy relating to how a Debriefing is trained, certified and decertified noting that there are a number of potential ways a debriefer may be decertified. SPC also highlighted that a time-frame for debriefing an observer had been agreed to at the first Observer Tuna Data Workshop (OTDW) immediately prior to, and with the participants of, the ROCW14. OTDW agreed an observer should be debriefed within 11 days for a purse seine trip and 23 days for a longline trip.

142. WCPFC sought clarification of the word 'independent' in regard to checking. SPC clarified that an 'independent' person cannot be the same person to audit their own work and agreed this terminology would be benefit from a clear definition of who an independent person should be.

143. SPC took the opportunity to encourage NOPs to work together and undertake pre-debriefing of observers from other NOPs. It is noted that NOPs must consider the cost of providing debriefing services for other programmes, but it is helpful when identify issues on the vessel quickly. SPC

recognised that when disembarking in Taiwan it might be possible to send the data back to the NOP electronically for remote debriefing.

144. The participants are asked to use tools like TUFMAN2 to enter debriefing evaluation scores, which allow access to reports for analysis of observer scores for performance.

145. POA queried the practicality of doing full debriefing in foreign ports and paying debriefers for this work and the data sharing agreements. SPC recognised that the sub-regional groups will drive a lot of this work. In regards to MOUs NOPs to undertake debriefing activities, this is something to be considered at the national level, between countries.

146. Kiribati informed the group they have 11 certified Debriefers, 3 of these Debriefers are on the government payroll and are being restricted to the office however they wish to do observer trips. Kiribati kindly asks FFA or SPC to write to the Executive to release these Debriefers to do trips. SPC and FFA acknowledged this request and a letter could be drafted to explain the need to retain their certification by going on trips.

147. Tokelau expressed a concern regarding the requirement to debrief fully observers between back-to-back trips, noting failure to do so may mean a suspension of trips. Tokelau noting that many observers disembark in ports where there is no access to debriefers. SPC noted that in back to back trips pre-debriefing should be done as soon as possible to deal with issues on the vessel before the observer gets back on board. If face-to-face to debriefing is not possible due to location of the observer then the provider should try to receive the data electronically, at least examine the GEN-3 and review the trip in absentia. Tokelau suggested to implement a limitation on days at sea to full debrief rather than the number of trips, this would allow observers to return to their home port for a full debrief, where shorter trips were being conducted.

148. PNG highlighted that they have their own Debriefing policy, their policy states they must be debriefed in 60 days or two trips. They also try to standardise the number of sea days given to observers.

149. Tuvalu agreed with the Tokelau proposal noting that Tuvalu observers can go out for 60 days however, time restrictions may be based on gear types e.g. 2 trips for purse seine and 60 days for longline.

150. Solomon Islands average number of sea days for a trip is 10 to 11 days, not exceeding two trips for a debrief would not work due to the fast turnaround of trips. Solomon Islands agrees that debriefing could be based on days or trips according to gear types.

151. SPC noted all comments received and informed the participants of the value of debriefing quickly because memories fade and after three trips things get confused and there is a need to ensure the data remains accurate and relying on memories is critical. Shorter trips also required less time to debrief. SPC noted that in 2014 a schedule for debriefing and submission of data had been agreed to by ROCW14 participants at the OTDW. SPC welcomed suggestion on minimum days or trips based on gear types.

152. POA highlighted the point that undertaking a full debrief in a foreign point is a point of issue due to data sharing and payment of the service. It is acknowledged that the 60 days is relating to the observer returning to their homeport. FFA thanked POA for the comments and encouraged the NOPs to communicate among each other to undertake the pre-debrief and assist each other in identifying issues while the vessel is still in port.

153. SPC noted the significant comments and will circulate the document for further review.

154. ROCW20 agreed to:

- 30. support the continued work done on the Debriefing Policy;
- 31. task the SPC to include a clear definition of 'independent' in the policy;
- 32. task the SPC to provide Kiribati with a letter detailing the PIRFO Observer policy relating to maintaining certification.

Wednesday, 12th February

Agenda Item 23 PIRFO Debriefing Process

155. SPC presented the process of debriefing highlighting the four stages of the process. SPC recognised that the evaluation forms is quite a large process and invites comments if NOPs believe these need to be amended.

156. Nauru agreed the process is adequate at this moment but understands that tweaking may be needed later; the meeting noted that Nauru does not have a port and observers must be disembark at a foreign port. Nauru scores are between 98 to 100% and they are very proud of this however Nauru finds it difficult have observers pre-debriefed so there is a need to wait for them to return to Nauru for a full debrief. If the process is changed Nauru may have to be forced to bend the process slightly to fit their situation.

157. Fiji recommended the pre-debrief report generated in a foreign port be placed with the workbook for the full debrief when the observer returns.

158. ROCW20 agreed to:

- 33. note and follow the PIRFO debriefing process.

Agenda Item 24 Third Party Data Quality Assurance Check – PNG Concept Paper

159. PNG presented a concept paper on third-party data quality assurance checks in an effort to put in place formal checks and balances to help the Coordinators to improve data quality and maintain consistency amongst all NOPs and their debriefers in the region.

160. The process of quality assurance checks involved the Debriefers report being scrutinised by a Debriefing Assessor. The Assessor has a checklist of key points to note in effort to ensure the data is complete and reliable.

161. Solomon Islands thanked PNG for the presentation and agrees that there is no third part data quality assurance check in most of the NOPs. It is pleasing to see how PNGs are doing their assurance checks and Solomon Islands are supportive in this and will contact PNG for assistance in developing such process for Solomon Islands. Solomon Islands encourages all other NOPs to do same noting that data quality is very important and most of the data errors must be ironed out at the National level before going on to SPC.

162. SPC commented in terms of data quality it is a good mechanism to check the data however we do need to be mindful of the resources of the NOPs to undertake this work and we kindly ask all NOPs to be aware of the timeliness of the data, ensuring we are not adding a layer of delay. However a

check of the quality of the data from the observers and on the performance of the debriefers is necessary.

163. FFA highlighted that sometimes after debriefers have been paid the data that FFA receives is not complete and unreliable. Therefore, FFA supports the PNG concept of observer data third party check and evaluation process of the debriefer.

164. POA queried is this for EM trips or across the board. PNG noted that currently they are only doing this on the ER trips however; this can be applied to all trips. POA noted that checks are good tools to have, however it seems that there are more layers being added to the process. There are currently various checks on observer data and now we are starting to check on the quality of debriefers.

165. Fiji sought clarification will the final marks come from Debriefers or the Assessor. PNG confirmed that the final mark would come from Debriefers Assessor.

166. FFA would like to highlight to the meeting that PNG's presentation referred to the work of Debriefers Mentors and Assessors. This checklist is an approach PNG have adopted and is offering to all NOPs to develop. FFA also recommended the use of national cost recovery to pay for such activities if implementing this will have financial implications.

167. ROCW20 agreed:

34. SPC and FFA to consider the concept of third party data assurance checks on observer data and to work with PNG to further develop it into a debriefing standard;

35. All NOPs to seek PNG's assistance in the development of this concept in country.

Agenda Item 25 2019 Training Review

168. SPC Observer Programme presented to the agenda item on the 2019 review of the observer training programme. It was then followed by a presentation on certification requirements for PIRFO Trainers.

169. FFA raised the question of a report card detailing the student results and their overall performance and behaviour during the training period. SPC noted that there were no formal reports, however coordinators can contact the trainers for information. FFA encouraged Coordinators to ask the trainers for information on their students' behaviour.

170. Nauru noted that there are privacy laws and people cannot be judged on their behaviour, they highlighted that in some administrations there is pressure to engage people regardless of their behaviour. SPC noted that there is a unit of the Code of Conduct and ethics and this is assessed for certification as an observer, if a student does not pass the unit they cannot be certified by the CMC.

171. Nauru further noted that they undertake a robust disciplinary process and they do not believe being judged by minor infractions is sufficient reason to stop employment opportunities. SPC agreed there is a level and minor issues would not be of concern, however we have had experiences of some students becoming seriously intoxicated, fighting with the local community and using weapons.

172. ROCW20 agreed to:

36. note the review of training done in 2019.

Agenda 26 2020 Training Planning

173. SPC presented the upcoming calendar of training events for 2020. Participants were asked to email SPC of their national training for 2020 to be included in the FFA/SPC training calendar.

174. The meeting noted that Nauru is interested in sending an observer to any debriefer training in the region

175. Fiji noted to the group that their observers are receiving training from NZ on trawlers; this is to assist Cook Islands working on trawlers in the IOTC.

176. FFA confirmed if you do require in-country training FFA may be able to fund the payment of a trainer but participants are asked to note that students must be committed to the study and attendance. Fiji noted they are willing to work with other NOPs and provide trainers to instruct in subjects such as Debrief Part 1.

177. PNG noted that there will be observer counselling training in Port Moresby. The training will focus on coping with, depression, anxiety and stress that may be triggered by family related problems or work issues while on duty.

178. Tokelau asked if there is any ER training. FFA confirmed there will be 2 training events in 2020, FFA will be targeting non-PNA countries and it will be held in Nadi. The date is yet to be determined.

179. ROCW20 agreed to:

37. endorse the 2020 training calendar.

Agenda Item 27 Status of Observer programme data submission

180. SPC presented the update on observer data highlighting work done to date in respect of collating data from observer programmes. SPC further noted the need for accurate data, complete work books and timely submission.

181. Nauru questioned, what is the main source of the trip origin data and can figures like the ones shown be verified and can reports regarding where placements occurred be generated? SPC confirmed information comes from PNA, OPM, WCPFC and the information known placements were based on the VMS data sets. In regards to locations of placements, SPC confirmed this can be reported on.

182. Nauru sought clarification whether GPS positions as recorded by the observer compared to the VMS dataset, which could help to identify the location of the observer during the fishing trip. SPC confirmed that the system is not automated and observers are required to manually enter this information. Though E-reporting tools would help, the application could record the positions (assuming the GPS is on) on a regular basis in a file that would not be accessible by the observers or anyone. Nauru acknowledged this and recommended that position of the observer be linked to the VMS for the safety of the observer. SPC noted that the ER application OLLO can record the VMS position in the background in the event that a safety issue is detected.

183. Tuvalu noted that in the workbook there are known errors, how is this handled, is the observer contacted. SPC confirmed that Debrief or Coordinator is contacted and asked to verify and correct the information.

184. Nauru asked for clarification on the variation of completeness of data noting that there is a large number outstanding. SPC clarified that there is a backlog of data entry from 2017 and 2019 is still being entered.

185. Nauru questioned the accuracy does SPC verify data among the trip reports, the journals and other related forms? SPC clarified that the journals and the trip reports are not entered into TUFMAN2.

186. WCPFC queried the completeness of data from Korean, Japanese, Taiwan or Philippines vessels? SPC advised that it is not a query they have run but there is sense that their data quite good.

187. POA requested a report on the performance of each Debriefers noting there have been complaints. SPC confirmed such a report is possible.

188. ROCW20 agreed to:

38. note the status of the observer programme data submissions;

39. task the SPC to provide reports on the locations of placements for NOPs.

Agenda Item 28 Summary of Debriefing Evaluations and Scores

189. SPC delivered the session on debriefing evaluation and scores highlighting that evaluation scores are entered into TUFMAN2 and Coordinators can access information regarding their observers scores and make informed assessments of their observers' and the Debriefers' performance.

190. POA noted that if a second person does a check of the first debrief, as a quality assurance check, it would be beneficial not to share the score of the first debrief, this may assist in determining if there is a consistent debriefing and scoring process. POA also suggested reports by port. SPC acknowledged these suggestions and agreed a second debrief can be done, it just takes time and money but it is possible and a report by port can be achieved.

191. Nauru acknowledged POA contributions, and agrees with the suggestions and thanks SPC for the analysis of the scores. Nauru had noted that some of their scores in certain ports are all high whereas in other ports they don't reflect high marks. Nauru appreciate the analysis available and would like to see if this analysis can be provided to Debriefers so that can see where they stand in the region. SPC acknowledged the request to produce reports and advised that reports by programme can be done.

192. POA thanked the SPC and hopefully it can recognise those Debriefers that are doing good work and also those that require guidance to Coordinators to work with Debriefers not working so well. SPC recognised the value of the data and especially to those countries that are remote from their observers disembarking in foreign ports.

193. ROCW20 agreed to:

40. support the analysis of debriefing evaluations and scores;

41. task the SPC to provide a report by port.

Agenda Item 29 PIRFO Biological Sampling and Tagging

194. SPC presented on the update of biological sampling and tagging activities recognising that sample collections have dropped in the last few years however efforts are being made to develop easier ways to sample and provide better incentives, noting that the current pay rate for an observer undertaking biological sampling may be changing.

195. Nauru asked – “how much the remuneration fee for observers doing at sea sampling is?” SPC acknowledged that the sampling fee is only \$5 per sea day. Nauru noted that the reduction in sampling collection since 2015 was related to a difference in what some observers were being paid for collecting, some collected more samples but over fewer days than others but received the lower biological sample payment. Nauru would like to start incentivising the programme more especially in a time when considering climate change and food security were a recognised issue. SPC noted that there is a new pay rate proposal under development to be confirmed by SPC.

196. SPC introduced to the meeting a potential new approach to supplement biological sampling recognising that there are a number key questions about the tuna stocks which remain unanswered and a greater effort in securing samples would assist in boosting this information for SPC’s scientific research.

197. Nauru pointed out that SPC plans to take a number of samples but MSC have a separation protocol, was this considered. SPC recognised the MSC requirements are a challenge to overcome. Suggested ways to handle this was to approach the protocol from an ecological perspective more than from a food-security approach.

198. Nauru queried the reference to the sample contamination and the cause, was it training or poor handling. SPC confirmed it has been due to the highly sophisticated equipment used for analysis they are very, very sensitive to contamination. The observer work has been very good and past methods of analysis allowed for small lapses but technology today is far more sensitive.

199. WCPFC noted the spatial zones of stratifying the sampling, querying whether there was an adequate spread of coverage. SPC felt that looking at past years of VMS data adequate spatial coverage should be achievable. The benefit of the approach is we can pinpoint the location of the vessel that is fishing and request a sample from the catch being hauled in.

200. Nauru noted that the plan is to target a collection of 240 fish in one effort, 4 times a year and questioned would the collection locations extend to other areas. SPC confirmed that the collection area could be extended easily.

201. SPC noted that an easy option would be a port sampling project but it was recognised that it is difficult to guarantee where and when the fish were caught. To fill in the gaps of the SPC scientific data there needs to be a guarantee of when and where fish are harvested. It was further noted that fresh fish samples are better for genetic integrity when compared with samples from frozen fish.

202. POA noted that the spatial scale of the stratified sampling zones is large and the request to take 30 fish is a large number for one vessel to have removed from their catch. They asked if there is potential for the number of fish required for sampling be spread around other vessels fishing in that same grid location? SPC acknowledged that 30 is a large number to take from one vessel and sharing this sampling request can be explored, if we can guarantee same time of catch and all 30 fish are secured.

203. ROCW20 agreed to:

42. support SPC in conducting an initial trial Approach 1. VMS bag and store' for sampling tuna on board selected purse seine vessels, as described in ROCW20 WP.7 ;
43. that SPC to explore alternative incentives structure for observers regarding onboard biological sample collection.

Thursday, 13th February

Agenda Item 29 (continued) Update on Tuna Tagging

204. SPC Presented the paper on the tuna tagging programme highlighting the purpose of the various tags and results of work done so far. ROCW20 participants were provided with posters advertising the SPC Tuna Recovery Programme in an effort to have more tags returned and the meeting was informed that no further steel head tags for tag seeding will be distributed to NOPs. NOPs were asked to distribute any tags remaining.

205. SPC delivered the session on bio-degradable and low entanglement risk FADs. SPC informed the meeting of key features of FADs and how they comply with WCPFC CMM relating to FAD design.

206. The Chair thanked SPC for their presentation and noted the meeting participants agree to support the work done by SPC in this area.

207. ROCW20 agreed to:
44. note and support SPC's work in tuna tagging;
 45. note the CMM relating to FAD design.

Agenda Item 30 Sampling Protocols

208. SPC presented the session on sampling protocols explaining the ways sampling can be done on board, spill and grab, noting that grab is a random selection of 5 fish direct from the brail while spill refers to sampling a larger proportion of the catch that have been transferred to a bin .

209. WCPFC noted the difference between the numbers between spill and grab, highlighting that the spill sampling took 4 to 5 people to do. Spill sampling is an excellent method but it must be difficult for a single observer to do this number. SPC agreed this is an issue, it is appreciated that this work is challenging for observers and disruptive to the fishing operations. However, the spill sampling data analysis had led to the development of an algorithm that once verified would mean that the normal grab sampling can continue and the data collected that way be corrected for bias.

210. Nauru queried the location of the fishing, noting that bigeye tuna is a deep-water fish yet it was highlighted in the presentation as only one fish being sampled. SPC noted the vessels were fishing on anchored FADs about 6 miles off-shore and while other bigeye were seen it happened that one bigeye was found in the spill bin.

211. SPC delivered work progressing on Project 90 which is involves converting measurement to numbers of fish and understand the length of a fish when it has been headed and tailed.

212. The meeting acknowledged this ongoing work.

213. ROCW20 agreed to:

- 46. note the information on the sampling protocols;
- 47. note the SPC's work in respect of Project 90.

Agenda Item 31 Shark and Seabird Guides

214. SPC presented the new work done on creating shark and seabird identification manual. SPC highlighted the manual included an identification key that is a tool to use to accurately identify a species of shark or ray. The identification key leads users through a systematic dichotomous process of species identification of sharks and rays.

215. WCPFC noted that 316 birds were caught and only seven were unidentified, so there seems to be a good knowledge of birds in the region. SPC asked whether the birds were correctly identified?

216. Nauru (regarding the item on shark and seabird guides) suggested that this agenda item could be an update in future as this is not relevant to the work of Coordinators, this is for the trainers, management issues are more relevant. SPC noted that this session was delivered to inform the workshop and that this tool has now been produced and is being launched to national programmes. The use of the guides by observer programmes was imperative for accurate species identification and to meet the WCPFC obligations on key and SSI shark and ray species. SPC agreed future discussions on this subject would be updates only.

217. POA thanked SPC for this development and encouraged e-copies for their library. SPC noted that electronic version were being produced for distribution.

218. ROCW20 agreed to:

- 48. support the development and training in the use of the new Shark and Seabird Guides;
- 49. recommend SPC develop and distribute an e-version of the guides.

Agenda Item 33 E-Reporting and E-Monitoring – Project 93

219. SPC introduced the item on ER and EM. MRAG informed the meeting that their role is to provide EM support to NOPs and encouraged participants to share any EM information.

220. Project 93 is a regional initiative concerning the data fields collected by tool and how this would be collected in respect of EM. Key aspects to the collection involved ensuring there were no duplications of data collection and there was data synergy, a primary source of data and source to verify or support the primary.

221. FFA clarified that the EM is not to take over the human observer, EM cannot identify some things and it is important to support synergy and integration of the use of human observer reporting with EM reporting.

222. WCPFC commented that Australia has 100% EM coverage on all east-coast longline vessels with human observers on only a small number of boats for verification of the EM data. SPC raised the high cost concerns for implementing EM, noting negotiations are currently underway with suppliers to bring these down.

223. Solomon Islands shared with participants their EM work. Solomon Islands noted SatLink is their service provider and the training was provided by DOS. Currently there are five EM Data Analysts with plans to grow to 10 in the future. The meeting noted in the beginning 100% of EM data was analysed however, this was then reduced down to 20% of vessels. The Analysts are Observers and do a mix of office based work and sea trips, when opportunities arise.

224. ROCW20 agreed to:

50. note the update on e-reporting and e-monitoring in respect of Project 93.

Agenda Item 34 Observer Carrier Transhipment

225. SPC presented the session on data collection trial done by Deirdre Brogan on a high seas transhipment vessel with aim to propose transhipment data collection standards. The study on this work found a number of strengths and weaknesses with observers performing the observation of transhipment of activities and made several recommendations that will be addressed by FFA and SPC.

226. SPC highlighted there are two different methods used when transferring fish during a transhipment, these include a net lifting fishing and the use of strings of about 30 to 40 fish. The observers are required to identify the fish species and weight of what is being transferred. Identification of the fish was found to difficult with frozen fish as the colour was obscured. Experienced officers do tend to develop techniques for identification and these related to missing gills or fish size but it was recognised this is difficult for accuracy.

227. WCPFC noted the safety issue raised when transferring an observer from the carrier to the unloading vessel. Moving to the unloading vessel is not in line with ROCW recommendations and it is a recommendation from the Commission, for safety reasons, that observers do not cross over.

228. Tuvalu thanked SPC for the presentation and welcomed an opportunity to be part of the trial. Tuvalu asked if there is a form for recording transhipment data at sea. SPC confirmed there is not a form however that is part of the project and a form will be developed and trialled. WCPFC informed the groups there is a set of unloading forms based on activities in port but these need further work.

229. Nauru supported this work and ongoing trials and further noted that they do not license longline vessels and do not support longline transshipping at sea. WCPFC noted that the CMM states that longliners should tranship in port, however there is no decline in the transhipment of longliners at sea.

230. PNG agreed that identification of species during a transhipment is very difficult, "is SPC or FFA considering upgrade training for people engaging in transhipment monitoring?" SPC confirmed that training will be required and this will be developed with training standards being developed as the next phase of the same project.

231. Fiji noted that depending on the weather 60 tonne of fish being transhipped could take up to 36 hours while more than 70 tonne can be approximately 2 days.

232. Nauru suggested that debriefing standards for transhipment be developed.

233. ROCW20 agreed to:

51. support the ongoing work done so far to develop data collection standards;

52. note Tuvalu's request to be part of a trial for recording transhipment data at sea;

53. task the SPC and FFA Secretariats to develop debriefing standards for transshipment.

Agenda Item 35 – Record of Proceedings and Recommendations

234. The report will be compiled and cleared online following the workshop.

235. The ROCW20 agreed to:

54. review and clear the record via email.

Agenda Item 36 – Appointment of ROCW21 Chair

236. Nauru raised the question the length of time of the ROCW Chairmanship noting that Cook Islands was originally requested to Chair ROCW20 however due to a change in the attendee, Cook Islands respectfully asked to seek another Chair. FFA confirmed that it is a 12 month appointment.

237. Papua New Guinea highlighted that appointment of the Cook Island Chair was a decision made between Samoa and Cook Island, noting Samoa was originally appointed.

238. Papua New Guinea nominated Vanuatu, Tokelau supported Vanuatu's nomination. Vanuatu declined the nomination.

239. Nauru questioned if a Member accepts the nomination to be Chair, will a second participant, from that same country, be funded to attend the ROCW. FFA explained that there are only enough funds to support one person from each member country. The Chair is permitted to represent their own country when matters arise of their interest.

240. SPC noted in the case of the participants' not agreeing to a Chair, what to do is open and highlighted, there is no Charter in respect of the ROCW, and one should be developed however it has been practice for consensus to determine on the Chair position.

241. Nauru recognised that unless Tuvalu is willing to take on the position for a second the only other willing member would be Nauru.

242. Cook Islands noted that he is only acting in this position and the Cook Island Observer Coordinator will attend in 2021.

243. Solomon Islands nominated Fiji to be the Chair of ROCW21, Nauru seconds the nomination, Fiji accepted the nomination.

244. ROCW20 agreed to:

55. endorse Fiji as the Chair of ROCW21

Agenda Item 37 – Next Meeting Venue and Date

245. SPC highlighted the International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference will be held in Hobart and the PNA meeting will be in Brisbane. Participants may wish to consider this when discussing the venue.

246. WCPFC agreed holding the meeting in Brisbane would be beneficial to be back to back with POA meetings and for those that wish to go to Hobart may do so and those that wish to return home may do so.

247. POA confirmed the next meeting is proposed for Brisbane.

248. Solomon Islands nominated Brisbane to coincide POA, the ROCW20 agreed.

249. SPC noted that the ROCW may wish to consider meeting dates to be before the IFO conference. The meeting to consider the IFO dates and endorse on email.

250. ROCW20 agreed to:

56. endorse the meeting venue for ROCW21 as Brisbane, Australia;

57. endorse via email ROCW21 meeting dates to precede IFOMC after SPC confirms the meeting dates of the IFO conference.

Agenda Item 38 – Close of Meeting

251. The ROCW20 Chair thanked all participants for their attendance to Tuvalu and their active engagement during discussions.

252. FFA thanked all those in attendance and acknowledged Tuvalu's willingness to proceed with the meeting during a time a global health crisis. FFA welcomed the incoming Chair and closed the meeting.

253. Members of the Certification Management Committee (CMC) met in an out of meeting session.
See Appendix 1

Friday, 14th February

254. Tuvalu Fisheries invited all the participants to a picnic and a day to enjoy Funafuti, this opportunity was well received, and FFA's appreciation to Tuvalu for hosting ROCW20 was conveyed.

Attachment A

ROCW20 Participant List

Name	Organisation
ADRIAN NANGUROMO	PNG - NFA
ALLISON DELEVNDIEP	FFA
AMBROSE ORIANIHAA	FFA
AURELIEN PANIZZA	SPC
DAVID BYROM	POA/MRAG
EZEKIEL PUE	PNG - NFA
GAGATI FALAIMA	Tuvalu Fisheries
EVERSON SENGEBAU	PWOB
HAROLD VILIA	Solomon Islands Fisheries
JOHN KELIMANA	PNAO
JOHN MAHIT JAMES	Vanuatu Fisheries
JUDE PIRUKU	FFA
KALO MANUOPANGAI	Tonga Fisheries
KARL STAISCH	WCPFC
SAIASI SARAU	Cook Islands Fisheries
MAKBI BWIJKO	MHOB
LUCAS TARAPIK	PNG - NFA
ACE CAPELLE	Nauru Fisheries
ELTON GLODUMAR	Nauru Fisheries
PETER DIEMA	Nauru Fisheries
JONATHAN SCOTTY	Nauru Fisheries
PENIHULOSIMERI LOPATI	PNAO
PHILIP LENS	FFA
PUNE HIMATA	PNG - NFA
SIOSIFA FUKOFUKA	SPC
SOLOMUA IONATANA	Tokelau Fisheries
TIM PARK	SPC
TUPULAGA PAULASI	Tuvalu Fisheries
UATI TIRIKAI	Kiribati - Fisheries
JED MACDONALD	SPC
AMOS TAUI	Tuvalu Fisheries
AUINA MOSA	Tuvalu Fisheries
AUINA VALANI	Tuvalu Fisheries
DAVID PAULO	Tuvalu Fisheries
FESO PANAPA	Tuvalu Fisheries
HAGTONU HOMASI	Tuvalu Fisheries
KATESA TEKINENE	Tuvalu Fisheries
KILISOME FOUNUKU	Tuvalu Fisheries

LEALAI BATAKA	Tuvalu Fisheries
MARK UEARA	Tuvalu Fisheries
MOTI SILO	Tuvalu Fisheries
OMELI SOSENE	Tuvalu Fisheries
PELOTI TAVAU	Tuvalu Fisheries
RUBEN AUINA	Tuvalu Fisheries
SAIMONI TUSAGA	Tuvalu Fisheries
TIMUANI ETIMONI	Tuvalu Fisheries
TOOMU KALEIA	Tuvalu Fisheries
VAITAFE IVENI	Tuvalu Fisheries
VAITIU TALIA	Tuvalu Fisheries
WALTER GOKRUN	Tuvalu Fisheries

Attachment B

20TH REGIONAL FISHERIES OBSERVER COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

FUNAFUTI

Tuvalu

10 – 14 February 2020

THEME: *“STRENGTHENING UNITY THROUGH QUALITY AND BEST PRACTICES”*

AGENDA – ROCW20

Venue: Rt.Hon.Dr.Sir.Tomasi Puapua Convention Center

Breaks will be held from **10:00 to 10:30** and **15:00 to 15:30**, Lunch will be from **12:00 to 13:00**

Indicative Agenda Item Leads

Lead Person	Initial	Organization
Allison Delvendiep	AD	Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
Aurélien Panizza	AP	Pacific Community (SPC)
Coley Falasi	CF	Pacific Community (SPC)
David Byrom	DB	PNA Observer Agency (MRAG Asia Pacific)
Jed MacDonald	JM	Pacific Community (SPC)
Karl Staisch	KS	Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Lucas Tarapik	LT	PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA)
Philip Lens	PL	Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
Shane McGrath	SM	PNA Observer Agency (MRAG Asia Pacific)
Siosifa Fukafuka	SF	Pacific Community (SPC)
Tim Park	TP	Pacific Community (SPC)

OPENING

AGENDA	ITEM	LEAD
1	Registration of all Participants	Tuvalu MNR?FFA
2	OPENING OF THE MEETING	
2.1	Opening Remarks	Tuvalu MNR
2.2	House Keeping	MNR/FFA/SPC
2.3	Appointment of interim Chair	FFA/SPC
2.4	Apologies	Chair
2.5	Meeting procedures and adoption of the agenda	Chair
	Appointing Rapporteur	Chair

REVIEW AND OUTCOMES

3	Observer Programme updates	Delegates
4	POA7 outcomes	HV
5	Status of recommendations from ROCW19	PL/TP
6	MCSWG21 Outcomes	TP
7	Status of recommendations from PIRFO CMC 5	TP
8	DCC Review of Longline Electronic Monitoring (EM) Data Fields - Workshop Outcomes	TP
9	WCPFC Outcomes	KS

OBSERVER PROGRAMME COORDINATION

10	National Cost Recovery	PL
11	Clarification on MoA between FFA and Members for Observer Services Agreement in 2011	PL
12	Safety Equipment update	PL
13	Travel and Health Insurance vaccination (measles/dengue/Corona etc.)	PL
14	Observer Trip information on social media	PL
15	PIRFO Logo update	AR
16	Regional ID Cards update	TP
17	PIRFO Website update	CF
18	PIRFO Trainers Fee	PL
19	PIRFO Trainers – FFA Preferred Supplier Contract requirement	PL
20	PIRFO Accreditation-EQAP	AD
21	PIRFO Framework and FFA training update	AD
22	PIRFO Debriefing Policy	TP
23	PIRFO Debriefing Process	SF
24	PNG Concept Paper – Third Party Data Quality Assurance Check	LT
25	2019 Training Review	SF
26	2020 Training Plan	SF

PIRFO DATA COLLECTION

27	Status of Observer programme data submission	AP/CF
28	Summary of Debriefing evaluations	CF/TP
29	Status and Revision of PIRFO Biological Sampling and Tagging	JM
30	PIRFO Sampling Protocols	SPC
	Project 60 & Spill sampling trip on F/V Solomon Jade/ Project 90	SF/TP
31	Shark Guide/Seabird Guide	TP
32	E- Reporting and E- Monitoring – Project 93	SPC/MRAG
34	Observer Carrier Transhipment	TP

WRAP UP

35	Formulating Recommendations	Chair/Delegates
36	Appointment of next ROCW Chair	Chair/Delegates
37	Next meeting venue and date	FFA/SPC/Delegates
38	Close of Meeting	Chair

Out of session meeting: PIRFO CMC-6

Appendix 1

Certification Management Committee 6 – CMC6 Meeting

1. Mr Tim Park of SPC Chaired the 6th meeting of the CMC in Tuvalu. The meeting convened on Thursday 13 February 2020 at 4.00pm
2. Present at the meeting were Apenisa Sauturaga (ROCW21 Chair and non-PNA), Elton Clodumar (PNA), Karl Staisch (WCPFC), Harold Vilia (PNA) and Philip Lens (FFA), Siosifa Fukofuka (SPC) and Allison Delvendiep (FFA).
3. The Chair introduced the newly developed CMC Charter for the Committee's consideration noting the Charter had been circulated earlier via email. The Chair highlighted that some minor points need to be updated, however the updates will not change the intention of the Charter.

In explaining the details of the Charter, the Chair highlighted that one of the roles of the CMC is certify students who have graduated from PIRFO training courses. The process for doing this outside of a formal CMC meeting will be via email. Members of the CMC will be sent a list of students with graduating marks. Members will be asked to certify their marks and approve the issuing of PIRFO certificates.
4. The Charter details who makes up the Committee noting that these same representatives are also participants of the ROCW.
5. The Chair noted that due to only an annual meeting of the CMC there will be work done via email, all CMC Members are asked to respond to all correspondence in relation to CMC. This will assist in the timely action of tasks.
6. The Chair clarified that if there is any disagreement among members in respect of certification of a student, the first reference will be to the relevant standard.
7. In respect of the PIRFO Training Framework layout, the Committee agreed to remove the year '2016' from the front cover and amending the names of contributors to include SPC and FFA.
8. SPC advised the Committee that Coordinators have been asked to supply bio-data for the identification badges and once received a sample will be forwarded to CMC Members for consideration.
9. FFA updated Committee Members in respect of the accreditation work. In brief, the Observer Course with the Pacific Board for Education Quality for final consideration, Debriefing is currently with the accreditation committee and the Debriefing Mentor and Assessor with the EQAP evaluation team.
10. SPC informed the meeting that a database of certified students is under development. The database will allow the CMC to track certification status of PIRFO Observers.
11. The Chair thanked all those in attendance and closed the meeting at 5.00pm

12. The CMC agreed to:

58. endorse the CMC Charter as presented;
59. task the FFA and SPC to amend the PIRFO training framework, removing reference to the year on the cover page and amendments to the author details;
60. task the SPC to design a PIRFO ID card for consideration by the CMC.